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and warts of their favorite. Indeed, in a pretty careful examination of several of the essays, we have been able to detect only a single instance of oversight, and there our attention was aroused by an obscurity in the sense. It occurs in the "Discourse concerning Socrates's Dæmon" (Vol. II. p. 417): "Or, if we did not like that proposal, he said, it was better to go out *and confusedly fall on one another*, than to coop ourselves up altogether in one room, and like a hive of bees be taken by our enemies." Even here the difficulty would seem to lie in some corruption of the original Greek, or in some peculiar use of the phrase *πρὸς ἀλλήλους* (Wytttenbach suggests *ἅλλους, αὐτούς*), for that the meaning cannot possibly be that the conspirators were to fall on *each other*, is not only an inference from the obvious sense, but is shown by the context. We should also have preferred "taken off" for "taken," in the last clause of the passage. A few other purely verbal criticisms might be made, but they are so few as rather to confirm than shake our judgment of the editor's vigilance and taste. The publishers also deserve commendation (as in their editions of the "Lives" and of Burke) for undertaking works of which the expenses must be great while the returns are slow, and whose own intrinsic excellence must for a long time be their chief reward.

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10. — *The Student's Elements of Geology*. By SIR CHARLES LYELL, Bart., F. R. S., author of "The Principles of Geology," "The Antiquity of Man," etc. With more than 600 Illustrations on Wood. London: John Murray. 1871.

It has been the good fortune of geology to secure not only a great number of followers, but among them men of very varied abilities, so that there have been heads and hands to do the diversified work which was required to effect the rapid advance of the science. Lofty imagination, great powers of generalization, keen perception, patient, untiring industry in the laboratory and in the field, have been plentifully given to the great work of unfolding the confused record of our earth's history. No one who is not familiar with the thousands of volumes which have been given to the public during the last quarter of a century can form an adequate idea of the extent or the variety of the work done in the science during this period of singular growth; whether we measure it by the number of workers or the extent of their productions, the activity of geological science exceeds that of any of its associate sciences.

The rapid rate of accumulation of the material of the science has

required another sort of ability than that employed in the work of discovery; it was necessary to have an historian who should be able to condense the work of this multitude of laborers, so that the records of research, scattered in the memoirs of the scientific institutions of the world, should be accessible in a brief form to all the students of science.

This difficult task has been done for geology by Sir Charles Lyell, and done in a way which has never been equalled by the other laborers in the field of this or other departments of research.

This work has been much more difficult than might at first sight seem to be the case. The historian of this science must necessarily be a large sharer in the work; in no other way can he be sure to obtain the full knowledge of the spirit of the investigations which he seeks to interpret; without which his work becomes a mere compilation. Moreover, he must be a laborer in many parts of the broad field, else he may not sympathize with all those who are doing their share in the varied work. He must also have the true historical spirit, something very difficult to retain in any department where the historian is himself a sharer in the events he narrates.

To the fact that all these and many other results of genius and culture have been combined in our author, we owe, in a great degree, the rapid growth of geology among the mass of the people. For about thirty years he has stood as a mediator between the specialist and the general public. The book whose title is given above is a recasting of a work which has been one of the means whereby this task of popularizing our science has been effected. The "*Elements of Geology*," the sixth edition of which was printed in 1865, has been for some years out of print, and has fallen further behind the science than it had during the longer intervals which had elapsed between some of the preceding editions. The author has of late devoted more attention to his larger work, the "*Principles of Geology*," the *tenth* edition of which was published two years ago. Having discussed in the light of recent discoveries many of the questions which would naturally have been treated in a new edition of the "*Elements of Geology*," our author has concluded, we think quite wisely, to limit the scope of the work, and to indicate the limitation by the word "*student's*," prefixed to the title. The result is a work on many accounts admirably fitted for the sphere it is now destined to fill. Without being distinctively a text-book, this volume is admirably fitted to accomplish the best result attainable in that class of work,—that of giving to a student a connected idea of the mass of facts and opinions of general importance belonging to that part of the science called historical geology.

Those who are familiar with the Elements will not require a description of the new shape in which it is now presented. We cannot think the design of the book altogether satisfactory. In tracing the succession of phenomena on the earth's surface, the beginning is not made with the earliest physical events and the first animals, but the reader is carried from the present time back, step by step, to the most remote past. Taught in this manner, the student is not led to see the phenomena of succession in their natural way, but must, if he would perceive the interesting relations involved therein, construct for himself a picture of the sequence, or read our author's record backwards to obtain it. This is a natural view of the subject to one who has made himself essentially the historian of the science. The order of succession of discovery has been rather from the newer to the older than in the sequence of creation; consequently the historical method is naturally to begin with the tertiary, and then go back by successive stages to the earliest ages, and the latest discoveries in the history of the earth. But the story thus told has the same want of coherence as we should find if we traced human history in the same way. The geological history of Great Britain requires to be told in its natural succession, as much as the civil and political history of the same region. There are arguments of weight to be adduced in favor of the method adopted by Sir Charles Lyell; it can be truly said that it is easier to proceed from the present familiar assemblage of animals, step by step, back towards the extraordinary assemblages of beings of past ages, than to begin with the most remote and therefore most puzzling conditions of life and environment. We do not think, however, that this counterbalances the difficulties attendant on the backward reading of the record.

We are sorry to say that, with the much to praise, we find something to blame in this edition of the Elements. We cannot believe that the author has failed to inform himself of the important discoveries of American geologists in the region west of the Mississippi. Yet the work of Whitney in California, of Hayden and others in the Rocky Mountains, is insufficiently represented in his accounts of the mesozoic and cainozoic American rocks. For instance, in his account of the trias of this country, we have a page or two given to the comparatively unimportant strip of rocks along our Atlantic seaboard, which is with doubt referred to that period, while a Western area, far more extensive and quite as well determined, is passed by without notice. There are other less grave, but still important omissions, which we hope may soon be corrected in another edition. It is to be wondered at, that a geologist, who can justly claim to have known more of American geology than any other Englishman, should fall so far behind American discovery.

It seems indeed impossible for British naturalists to keep themselves informed of the work done in this country. We have long hoped that some of the English journals of science would endeavor to remedy this by getting some active American scientist to furnish them from time to time with a *résumé* of American contributions.

We would not have this criticism seem too severe. The intent, if not declared aim, of the book is to give to the British reader a clear idea of the historical geology and palæontology of his own island, with a certain amount of information concerning that of other regions where he is likely to be led, with scarcely more than accidental reference to many important facts which might have unavoidably swelled the volume to an inconvenient size. To the American student this volume may serve very well to complement the manual of Professor Dana, as it is as full of information about the European as the latter is about our American rocks.

It may not be inopportune to recall here the influence exerted upon the study of geology in this country by the journeys of Sir Charles Lyell. By his contact with many American students, who were stimulated to activity by his influence, he did more than any European has done, except Agassiz, to affect for the better the scientific spirit of this country, while by his example he directed the attention of many of his countrymen towards the study of American geology. The charming narratives of these journeys are now out of print. We wish the author could be induced to visit us once more, were it only to see the result of the rapid development of science during the last two decades, — a result which his own labors have had so creditable a share in producing.

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11. — *Commentaries on the Laws of England, in Four Books*, by SIR WILLIAM BLACKSTONE, Knight, one of the Justices of his Majesty's Court of Common Pleas. Together with such Notes of enduring Value as have been published in the several English Editions. And also a copious Analysis of the Contents; and additional Notes with References to English and American Decisions and Statutes, to date, which illustrate or change the Law of the Text; also, a full Table of Abbreviations, and some Considerations regarding the Study of the Law. By THOMAS M. COOLEY, Jay Professor of Law in the University of Michigan, and Author of "Constitutional Limitations." 2 vols. 8vo. Chicago: Callaghan and Cockroft. 1871.

"THE Commentaries of Mr. Justice Blackstone," says the author of the present edition, "have now for more than a century been the